

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A chuck equipment which can hold insulating  
substrates is provided. First and second electrodes are  
provided to be exposed on the base the surface of which is  
insulated. The insulating substrate is placed in contact  
with or in close proximity to the surfaces of the first and  
second electrodes. Since an electric field having a high  
rate of spatial change is established between the first and  
10 second electrodes, the substrate is held against the  
surface of the chuck equipment by the gradient force.  
Since the magnitude of the gradient force depends on that  
of the rate of change of the electric field, a voltage may  
be applied between the first and second electrodes to  
15 establish an electric field of  $1.0 \times 10^6 \text{V/m}$  or greater.